

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for predicting the current frame of data in a digital coding system wherein a signal is segmented into frames of data that are sequentially encoded, said system including a base layer and an enhancement layer, said base layer including a base encoder and a base decoder, said enhancement layer including an enhancement encoder, an enhancement layer estimator, and an enhancement decoder, said base decoder producing a reconstructed signal, said enhancement layer estimator producing a prediction of said current frame of data, said enhancement decoder producing an enhanced reconstructed signal, said method comprising the steps of:

~~predicting the current frame of data at the enhancement layer by processing and combining applying the reconstructed data representing the current base layer frame and the reconstructed data representing the previous enhancement layer frame as inputs to the enhancement layer estimator; and~~

predicting the current frame of data at the enhancement layer by processing and combining said inputs.

Claims 2-14 (canceled)

15. (new): An apparatus for predicting the current frame of data in a digital coding system wherein a signal is segmented into frames of data that are sequentially encoded, said system including a base layer and an enhancement layer, said base layer including a base encoder and a base decoder, said enhancement layer including an enhancement encoder, an enhancement layer estimator, and an enhancement decoder, said base decoder producing a reconstructed signal, said enhancement layer estimator producing a prediction of said current frame of data, said enhancement

decoder producing an enhanced reconstructed signal, said apparatus comprising:

means for applying the reconstructed data representing the current base layer frame and the reconstructed data representing the previous enhancement layer frame as inputs to the enhancement layer estimator; and

means for predicting the current frame of data at the enhancement layer by processing and combining said inputs.